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Ross to present new peace proposals

By HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON - The Clinton administration is hopeful that the upcoming trip to the region by special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross will spur a resumption of negotiations, but cautioned that the Israeli-Palestinian gap remains wide.

Weizman-Arafat meeting?

Renewing security cooperation, initiating final-status talks, and resuming discussions on implementing the interim agreements are the three components of the American package for salvaging the peace process, a senior US official said Friday.

The US wants each side to rebuild the other's trust in the process, he said. For the Palestinian Authority, that means resuming security ties, while Israel is expected to take "no unilateral actions" in Jerusalem and the territories, presumably meaning further construction projects.

The rebuilding of trust is necessary due to the "breakdown" in relations between the sides, he added.

In his briefing Friday, acting State Department spokesman John Dinger said Ross is "going out there to see what steps the parties are willing to take to try and ... restore confidence, get the process back on track."

"This is a long-term process, as we all know. And this is one stage in a long-term process," Dinger said.

Ross and the US peace team, including State Department and National Security Council officials, will be returning just two weeks after their most recent mission. This visit, to begin tomorrow, will likely include only Jerusalem and Gaza. The US will then decide on what further steps to take.

For now, the official said, restoring security cooperation and resuming interim arrangements may have to suffice, since getting to final-status talks is seen to be unlikely soon.

Renewing security cooperation should not, in any case, be a precondition to other negotiations, he added.

With the now-two-month break in talks that began with the start of construction in Har Homa, the US is concerned that the stalemate could continue until "there is an explosion" on the political or security levels that would create an even greater crisis - "something like what we saw in September, or in February-March 1996," the official said, referring to the fighting following the Western Wall Tunnel exit opening, and the series of suicide bombings.

Complicating the US's attempt to find a formula to resume the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue is the administration's continued inability to discern what Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's strategy is regarding relations with the Palestinians and his approach to final-status negotiations, the official said.

Also Friday, the State Department reissued an alert to Palestinian-Americans to acquire the proper documentation before traveling to the territories via Israel.



British Prime Minister Tony Blair waves as he arrives at No. 10 Downing Street on Friday following his landslide victory. (Reuters)

Blair takes Britain's helm

News agencies

LONDON - Britain's Labor Party has won its greatest-ever victory and Tony Blair didn't waste any time yesterday starting to do something his party hasn't done in a generation. Govern.

Even though it was the start of a three-day holiday weekend, Blair arrived at 10 Downing St. and started making final decisions on the rest of his cabinet. One of his first moves after becoming prime minister was to name seven key members.

Throughout the morning, senior Labor figures arrived at 10 Downing St. Several walked away with cabinet positions, including Marjorie Mowlam in the key post as Northern Ireland secretary and George Robertson as defense secretary.

"For 18 years, 18 long years, our party has been in opposition," Blair declared Friday as he took possession of 10 Downing St., the prime minister's official residence. "It could only say, it could not do. Today we are charged with the deep responsibility of government. Today enough of talking, it is time now to do."

And time is short. Labor has just over a week before it sets out its legislative program at the formal opening of parliament. Within six weeks, Blair faces an important European Union summit, his first test in an arena where his predecessor, John Major, was often isolated, and another summit of G-7 leaders in Denver.

Britain's future in Europe is expected to be a key issue in the next five years. Labor adopted the defeated Conservative Party's wait-and-see policy on joining a single European currency. Internal squabbling over European integration badly divided the Tories and was a key factor in the



BRITISH ELECTIONS

party's trouncing at the polls. The Financial Times reported that Blair has offered Sir David Simon, chairman of British Petroleum, the position of minister for Europe and a seat in the unelected House of Lords. Simon was not among yesterday morning's visitors.

British Petroleum said Simon was talking to Blair but nothing had been decided. "He would very much like to be involved in the shaping of the UK's relationship with its European partners but also to continue as chairman of BP. He will be considering over the next few days if it is possible to do both of these things," a BP spokesman said, speaking anonymously.

Blair spent his first night as prime minister in his home in the Islington area of north London with his wife, Cherie Booth, and three young children. Booth got a rude awakening yesterday morning to the perils of being the prime minister's wife. When a policeman knocked, she opened the door in a short nightgown and suddenly realized that photographers across the street were snapping away. She quickly backed away behind the door, and a man delivering flowers went inside. He also brought in the morning papers.

Blair is the first prime minister to have young children since Labor's Ramsay MacDonald in the 1920s. The living quarters above the prime minister's official offices at 10 Downing are small, and a Downing Street spokesman said the Blairs had inspected the area Friday and decided it was not really suitable for family living.

The Blairs are considering living next door at 11 Downing St., usually the home of the chancellor of the exchequer, which is more spacious, the spokesman said, but no decision has been made. Gordon Brown, the treasury chief, is a bachelor.

Major resigned as Conservative party leader as he stood outside 10 Downing St. for the last time. He'll remain an ordinary backbencher in a shrunken and divided party.

Conservatives began jockeying for the leadership although only former chancellor of the exchequer Kenneth Clarke has announced that he will be a candidate.

Former Tory cabinet minister Sir Norman Fowler, one of only 165 Conservatives to win seats in the new Parliament, said the party needs time to recover from the huge defeat and there was "no hurry" for leadership candidates to rush forward.

"Opposition and the demands of opposition are very difficult," he told BBC Radio 4. "You need a tough leader - someone who can do successful battle in the House of Commons twice a week and someone who can develop policy at the same time." Former deputy prime minister Michael Heseltine, who suffered a heart attack in 1993, was hospitalized with angina pain. He announced that he would not be a candidate to replace Major as Conservative Party leader.

Blair's cabinet appointments included John Prescott, a blunt-speaking former ship's steward, as deputy prime minister. Economist Gordon Brown became chancellor of the exchequer, promising fiscal, if not political, conservatism. Other key appointments included Robin Cook as foreign and commonwealth secretary, Clare Short in charge of dispensing Britain's foreign aid as secretary for international development, Harriet Harman as social security secretary, Lord Irvine as Lord Chancellor, and Britain's first blind minister, David Blunkett as education secretary. Blair named five women to cabinet posts.

Netanyahu congratulates Blair

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu sent a telegram to British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Friday, congratulating him on his "stunning election victory."

"We seem to be at an historic point in which a new generation is assuming power in many countries," Netanyahu wrote. "I have no doubt that you will add great energy and vigorous leadership to the political life of Great Britain and Europe and that your stewardship will have a lasting impact on world affairs."

Jerusalem Post Staff

Bentsur: No terms to Syrian talks

Levy meets EU envoy today

By MICHAL YUDELMAN and news agencies

Israel has rejected a recent Syrian offer to renew peace talks, because it included as a precondition the government's agreeing to a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, a senior official said yesterday.

Foreign Minister David Levy is to discuss ways of resuming the negotiations with Syria with European Union peace talks envoy Miguel Moratinos, who was to arrive from Damascus last night.

Syria recently proposed three formulas to resume talks, which were relayed to the government by Moratinos, Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur revealed yesterday.

However, each proposal included a demand that Israel could not accept, and therefore the government rejected all three proposals, he said. Bentsur was speaking at a question-and-answer forum in Rehovot, where he was interviewed by former Davar editor Hannah Semer.

Bentsur, who is also to attend Levy's meeting with Moratinos today, said one of the Syrian proposals was based on Resolution 242, but included a demand for a detailed breakdown of the resolution according to the Syrian interpretation, i.e. an Israeli commitment for complete withdrawal from the Golan. Israel, of course, rejected this demand, Bentsur said.

Bentsur said the final communiqué of the recent Malta Conference included a call by the 27 member states for negotiations between Syria and Israel to be resumed on the basis of the Madrid Conference. The announcement was formulated with the consensus of all the states at the conference, including Syria.

Bentsur pointed out that the announcement was in keeping with a proposal Levy made three months ago that was rejected at the time by the Syrians. He suggested this might provide an opening for a bridging formula that would enable the resumption of negotiations.

The possibility of resuming talks with Syria on the basis of the Madrid Conference is expected to be discussed by Levy, Bentsur, and Moratinos at their meeting today.

Under the Labor government, the sides appeared on the verge of a Golan-for-peace deal, but it was never finalized. The Netanyahu government opposes a complete Golan pullout.

Bentsur told Israel Radio yesterday that Israel is open to renewing the peace talks based on the Madrid model, which imposed no preconditions on either side.

Netanyahu participated in the Madrid Conference as deputy foreign minister.

Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day begins tonight

By ABIEH O'SULLIVAN

Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day begins tonight with a state ceremony at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, to be attended by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and other dignitaries. The ceremony, which begins at 8, will be televised on Channels 1 and 2.

In an effort to further educate Israelis about the Holocaust, IDF soldiers will be entering the names of victims into the computers at Yad Vashem, the IDF Spokesman said.

The project, organized jointly by Yad Vashem and the Education Corps, is aimed at computerizing the names of all who perished in the Holocaust, using the forms filled out by relatives and acquaintances over the years.

"The participation of soldiers in this national mission is bringing them closer to an awareness of the Holocaust and its significance and the IDF sees the project as an important educational endeavor," the spokesman said.

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Paul Ben Haim - "Dance and Invocation"

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Beethoven - Symphony No.3 ("Eroica")
Sun 11.5.97, Independence Day Evening at 9:30 pm
Henry Crown Symphony Hall

Tickets: at the Orchestra Box Office,
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NEWS

in brief

Haredim try to block Rehov Bar-Ilan

Hundreds of haredim tried to block traffic on Rehov Bar-Ilan yesterday, but they were forced off the Jerusalem thoroughfare by police. Several haredim also threw bottles onto the road. One man was arrested on suspicion he attacked a policeman. *Jim*

1 dead, 21 injured on roads

A foreign worker was killed and 21 people were injured - six seriously - in road accidents over the weekend. The man was killed late Friday night near the Lod interchange on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway when he tried to cross the road on his bicycle and was hit by a car. Earlier Friday, a four-car pile-up on Rehov Yigal Yadin in Jerusalem left 11 people injured, one of them seriously. Two women were seriously injured yesterday in a head-on collision near Ness Ziona. Eight people were hurt, three seriously, in three different accidents in the Sharon area. Last week, up to noon on Friday, 12 people were killed and 14 seriously injured in road accidents. *Jim*

Boy killed by shell in firing zone

A 14-year-old Beduin boy was killed when a shell he picked up in an IDF firing zone in the Tel Arad area exploded. The boy's family had been looking for him since the morning, and found him dead at 2:30 p.m. Police arrived on the scene and took parts of the shell for laboratory analysis. *Jim*

Two Hebron stonethrowers lightly wounded

Several dozen Palestinian youths stoned IDF troops in the center of Hebron on Friday morning. Soldiers dispersed the rioters with tear gas and rubber bullets. Palestinian sources reported that two youths were lightly wounded in the exchange. *Jim*

Sanctions by gov't workers continue

Disruptions in 15 government ministries are to continue today, with workers refusing to receive the public, answer phones, or send mail and faxes. Interior Ministry workers will not issue passports or identity cards, and the Transport Ministry's Licensing Bureau will not give tests in driving theory or issue car registrations. The workers are protesting what they say is the Treasury's delay in putting through a wage increase. The Treasury insists what the workers are demanding contravenes their signed wage agreement. The Treasury is to decide today whether to take legal steps to force the workers to resume their regular duties. *Jim*

Egypt rejects US offer to deport Abdel-Rahman

The US offered to deport to Egypt Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, a Moslem cleric jailed for plotting to blow up New York landmarks, but Cairo rejected the proposal, the London-based Al-Hayat reported yesterday. Abdel-Rahman, 58, was sentenced to life in prison in 1995 for conspiring to blow up landmarks, including the World Trade Center and the UN. Abdel-Rahman is widely believed to be the spiritual leader of the Islamic Group, a militant group fighting to topple the secular government of President Hosni Mubarak. *Reuter*

Ray Charles cancels Lebanon concerts

US singer Ray Charles canceled two summer concerts in Lebanon after the US State Department advised him against making the trip, the organizing committee said yesterday. The State Department cited its decade-old ban on Americans traveling to Lebanon, an official of the Beiteddine Festival's organizing committee said. The committee received a letter Friday from Charles' agents in the US canceling the July 25-26 concerts in the summer resort of Beiteddine, 60 kilometers southeast of Beirut, the official said. *AP*

Thousands rally for state inquiry

Demonstrators demand investigation into Bar-On Affair

By URBEL HEILMAN

Thousands of people turned out for a mass rally at the Wohl Rose Garden opposite the Knesset last night, demanding the establishment of a state commission of inquiry into the Bar-On Affair. Ray Elbaz, 21, one of the demonstration organizers, called upon "young and old, Right and Left, religious and secular, Sephardim and Ashkenazim" to unite in the pursuit of justice. Producer Yigal Goren, a former Israel Television reporter who worked with a group of young people to coordinate the event, said, "This event has significance for the entire political spectrum. We will step up the pressure; this is just the beginning." Last night's demonstration was the culmination of an effort that began on April 22, when hundreds, including former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair, gathered opposite the Knesset to demand a state commission of inquiry into the Bar-On Affair. Since then, small groups of protesters have been at the Wohl Rose Garden, holding a vigil 24 hours a day and soliciting signatures on a petition demanding the inquiry. Elbaz, who spearheaded the protest with Dani Zarzewsky, explained that every citi-

zen should demand the commission of inquiry be set up to ensure the integrity of the nation's leaders. "Netanyahu was chosen in a democratic way," said Elbaz, "but here things were done that were just not right." "If they behave this way with regard to the appointment of the attorney-general, how will they make decisions tomorrow regarding Hebron, the economy, and other things?" said Orit Maron, who has been volunteering at the protest every day since it began. "As concerned youth, this frightens us." Elbaz explained that recent events propelled him to action. "The Bar-On Affair was the red line for me; I was just seeing too much corruption in the government," he said. His frustration reached its breaking point when the prime minister responded as if the attorney-general's report had conclusively proved his innocence. The protest, Elbaz said, ensures that "the prime minister won't sleep well at night. This should at least let him know that his nation is disgusted by him." The day after the protest began, the volunteers' efforts were joined by Goren, who provided technical assistance to the campaign. By the morning after the initial

demonstration, Goren had arranged for a tent to be set up at the site, procured the necessary permits for the protest, set up a bank account for the thousands of shekels flowing in to the campaign, and got individuals and companies to supply the volunteers with cellular phones, stickers, posters, and food. Since then, support for the protesters' demands have come from all ends of the political spectrum. While most of the youth coordinating the protest are affiliated with the Left, supporters have come from across the political spectrum, including Shas. Several MKs, including Shimon Peres, Ehud Barak, and Yossi Sarid, have signed the petition, and the petition has also been circulating with the help of volunteers in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Beersheba, Holon, and Ashdod, who set up protest booths in each of those cities. Some 70,000 signatures have been collected so far. Elie Eidelman, a volunteer who has spent several hours every day at the protest site, said, "Even if the protest doesn't help now, at least it will help make integrity an issue in the next elections." "Our task was to bring the issue to public awareness," said Elbaz. "Now it is in the

hands of the citizens. This is the spark that should ignite the fire." Sarah Homig adds: Labor leadership candidate MK Ephraim Sneh complained yesterday that he had been "tossed in a very violent, abusive manner from the Jerusalem demonstration called to back demands for a state inquiry commission into the Bar-On Affair. Sneh said he was the first to begin circulating a petition calling for such a commission in stands he put up on Tel Aviv streets, and later sent a van around the country to collect more signatures. The sponsors of the Jerusalem petition, he claims, came after him. Last night, Sneh recounts, he "came to the demonstration just as any ordinary citizen, which is my right. When TV interviewers approached, one of the organizers, Yigal Goren, strode forward menacingly and in an ugly manner tried to eject me, screaming that I am riding on his coat tails and that I am trying to steal headlines at his expense and lead the effort a political air. "He blocked TV cameramen and even covered their lenses with his hands. As a TV journalist himself, he should have known better than to behave in this unseemly violent fashion."

Likud blasts Labor for wanting probe

By SARAH HOMIG

The Likud charged last night that the campaign to establish a state commission of inquiry into the Bar-On Affair is nothing but "another hypocritical Labor-instigated attempt to bring down the government." "This is not, as presented, an independent spontaneous move by politically unaffiliated citizens. This is a very political act organized and orchestrated by the Labor Party, which clutches at this as a last-ditch effort to bring down the government, not via the ballot box," the Likud party said in a statement, in response to the demonstration outside the Prime Minister's Office last night. Communications Minister Limor Livnat, who distanced herself from Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu until the decision not to indict him, also said yesterday that "despite the pretense, it is very clear that the call for a state inquiry commission is a very political, partisan call. It constitutes a vote of no-confidence, if not contempt, in the decision of the state attorney and the attorney-general. However, after three months of an intensive and exhaustive police investigation, it is hard to imagine what an inquiry commission could unearth that the police did not."



Israel, China discuss cooperation
Finance Minister Dan Meridor greets Chen Jinguo, the Chinese senior minister for social and economics planning, who arrived last week to discuss joint projects in agriculture, communications, medicine and chemical manufacturing. Chen invited Meridor to visit China in September.

PA bans sale of land through unauthorized agents

The Palestinian Authority said yesterday it had banned the sale of land through unauthorized agents in order to counter expansion of Jewish settlement. The ban, affecting all of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, covers areas now beyond PA control, including eastern Jerusalem. "In some cases where Israelis build new settlements on Palestinian land, we discovered that Palestinian owners have sold their land to Arab or foreign deal-

ers working for Israeli companies," a PA official told Reuters. "To stop this, we are prohibiting the sales of land through [unauthorized] Arab or foreign dealers," he said of the decision taken at a PA cabinet meeting overnight. PA cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdel-Rahman said the PA would need to approve all land deals and all real estate agents. "The leadership has ordered its security and judicial apparatus to see that the decision is implement-

Arafat, Weizman due to meet

News agencies

President Ezer Weizman and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat have agreed to meet, but a date has yet to be set, Israel Radio and a Palestinian Authority official said yesterday. "Weizman asked for the meeting," said the PA official, who confirmed the Israel Radio report. "No date has been set for the meeting. We don't expect it to take place before the end of the week." He would not elaborate on the purpose of the meeting. Weizman's director-general, Arye Shumer, later told Israel Radio that it was the PA that had requested the meeting. "There are contacts on this issue and we are in contact with the prime minister and the Palestinian Authority in light of the request of the Palestinian Authority," Shumer said. Israel Radio, quoting a senior PA official, said the meeting had been delayed for technical reasons but could take place this week. Weizman has tried in the past to smooth relations between Israel and the PA that have been rocky since Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu took office last June. Weizman played a key role in mediating the last major breakdown between the sides when he invited Arafat to his home for a meeting last October. Also yesterday, Arafat called on US President Bill Clinton and the world community to save the deteriorating peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. In a statement released early yesterday morning after a five-hour cabinet meeting in Ramallah, Arafat said Israel's "malicious" settlement of the West Bank and East Jerusalem is aimed at denying the Palestinians their own state. "There is no way of getting out of this crisis without an international intervention," Arafat said in the statement.

Palestinian lawyer arrested for criticizing PA legal system

By JON IMMANUEL

A lawyer working for the Palestinian Authority has been jailed in Gaza for writing an article about the Bar-On Affair that compared the PA legal system unfavorably to the Israeli system. Jamil Salameh, who works at the Ministry of Planning, headed by Nabil Shaath, wrote the article for the Gaza Bar Association journal. But when he showed it to the journal's editors for publication, they passed it on to the public prosecutor, Khalid al-Qidrah, who ordered Salameh arrested. He was arrested last Saturday and is being held at the Gaza Central Prison. It is the first time a writer in Gaza has been jailed by the PA for an unpublished article.

The article expressed admiration for the way the Israel Police investigated the Bar-On Affair and commented particularly on the investigation of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi. Many articles published in the Palestinian press have said the same thing. However, Salameh went further, asking when such an independent legal system would be adopted by the PA, according to Bassem Eid of the Human Rights Monitoring Group. Eid was speaking Thursday at a forum on the media and democracy organized by the Israel-Palestine Center for Research and Information. Al-Qidrah said Friday that Salameh was charged with security offenses, and that while freedom of the press was to be defended, this did not permit slander.

US report reinforces claim Swiss kept billions in looted Nazi gold

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A long-awaited US government report will state there is conclusive evidence that the Nazis sold Switzerland gold stolen from individual Holocaust victims, sources close to the State Department said on Friday. The sources said the 11-agency report will also show that after the war, Switzerland failed to return billions of dollars worth of looted Nazi gold it received during the war. The sources' comments were denounced by the US official preparing the report. Under Secretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat, in a statement issued by the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, said the sources' comments were inaccurate. The sources contacted by Reuters said they stood

by their account. "The Reuters story is based on pure speculation, contains inaccuracies and should be given no credence," the statement by Eizenstat said. Eizenstat did not specify what the inaccuracies were but he cautioned that in the coming days interested parties would attempt to put their own slant on the report. The Swiss Embassy declined comment. The more than 200-page report, based on 14 million pages of US government documents, was prepared under Eizenstat's direction. It is expected to be released on Wednesday, and the sources said it will be very harsh on the Swiss role in the war as bankers and even money-launderers for the Third Reich.

With great sorrow we announce the death of our beloved mother and grandmother
LUCIANA JARACH
The funeral will leave from Beit Hahesped, Givat Shaul Cemetery, Jerusalem, Sunday, May 4, 1997, at 2:30 p.m.
Her children: Mirella Bamberger, Federico and Elic Jarach, Marina Slev, Dina and Gaby Lehman, Renato and Judith Jarach Grandchildren and great-grandchildren
Shiva at 20 Radak St., Rehavia, Jerusalem

We deeply mourn the death of our beloved
ALAN (ILAN) BARZEL
The funeral will take place today, Sunday, May 4, 1997, at the Ramat Hasharon Cemetery at 4:30 p.m.
His wife: Monika Barzel (née Friedman)
His daughter: Miriam Rotman and her family
His son: Guy Barzel and wife, Orly
Families: Hare, Friedman, Rotman, Lavid

We sadly announce the death of our beloved
MIRA SANDOR
(née Hoffmann)
The funeral will take place today, Sunday, May 4, 1997, at 12:00, at the Brosh Gate, Kfar Samir.
Please refrain from visiting.
Edna and Dr. Shlomo Carmel and family

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BACKGROUND

Meet Tony Blair

By PAUL CARREL

LONDON (Reuters) - Tony Blair, Britain's new prime minister, traded on some diverse experiences to revamp the Labor Party and lead it to power.

Born to working-class parents on May 6, 1953, Blair profited from his father's hard work and was sent to private school and to Oxford University where he studied law. He was a lawyer before entering parliament in 1983.

As he told the Labor Party conference last October: "I wasn't born Labor, I became Labor." In an unscripted departure from that conference speech, he told how his world "fell apart" when he awoke one morning just after his 11th birthday to be told his father, Leo, had suffered a severe stroke at the age of 40.

"It taught me something: it taught me the value of the family, because my mother worked for three years to help him talk and walk again," Blair said.

"My father was a very ambitious man, he was successful, he was a go-getter," said Blair, describing the same attributes which have propelled him to 10 Downing Street, the prime minister's residence.

Blair's father abandoned his socialist roots and stood as a Conservative for parliament. Only when Blair scrapped the Labor Party constitution's Clause Four, which specified that the state should own the means of production, did he rejoin Labor.

If his parents taught him the virtues of hard work, Blair occasionally strayed from the path. At Oxford University he drifted, lacking purpose and direction, until he met Peter Thomson, then a 36-year-old Australian theology student.

"Beyond getting a degree, I don't think he really knew what he was doing at Oxford," Thomson said.

Blair's mother Hazel died of cancer when he was 21. The young student realized that life was tenuous and he had to channel his energies if he was to achieve anything.

Thomson introduced him to his own radical brand of Christianity. During late night conversations in "Thommo's room," the down-to-earth Australian opened his eyes to a religious faith he could relate to.

Thomson's influence has left its mark on Blair's politics.

As a mutual friend commented: "You can hear Thomson in Blair's speeches."

Blair met his wife Cherie when they were both trainee lawyers working for Labor grandee Lord Irvine and developed a relaxed professional relationship.

There was no hint of romance until they played a game at an office Christmas party in 1977 which involved passing a balloon to one another through their legs.

"I began to see her differently," said Blair. "I was immensely attracted to her, not just her looks but her personality." The relationship blossomed and it became harder for them to conceal their emotions at work.

Finally at a clients' meeting they could not keep their eyes off each other and Irvine grew irritated until, Blair said, he snapped at him: "For goodness sake take the girl to the pub or something." The Blairs celebrated their 17th wedding anniversary on March 29, a testament to the success of a relationship built on friendship and team-work.

Blair's romantic streak is intact. "I'm still excited by Cherie," he said. "I adore her still and am deeply in love with her." The Blairs have managed to juggle the demands of their dynamic careers with the domestic pressures of bringing up a young family. They have three children.



Britain's new Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown leaves Downing Street on Friday.

(Reuters)

Seeds of Major's rout sown long ago

LONDON (Reuters) - Announcing his departure as Conservative Party leader on Friday, John Major still seemed baffled as to why the British people had voted his government out of office the day before.

"The economy is booming, interest rates are low and inflation is low and unemployment is falling," he said, taking his leave outside the prime minister's Downing Street residence.

Major had held a huge opinion poll lead for months before Major called the election on March 17, hoping the longest campaign in living memory would wear his opponents down.

But the tactic failed lamentably, and all the pundits agree that by then it was probably too late. The three decisive moments came long before Major and Labor leader Tony Blair set out on the campaign trail.

The first came in September 1992, just five months after the Conservatives had won a surprise election victory.

As speculators gambled against sterling, Major and the then Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont battled to keep the pound in Europe's exchange rate mechanism (ERM).

But although they spent 20 billion pounds (\$32 billion) to defend sterling and pushed interest rates briefly up to 15 percent, the pound crashed out, dealing a fatal blow to the Conservatives' image as guardians of the economy.

The second crucial moment came in April 1995, when Blair won overwhelming backing to scrap Labor's traditional, if little-honored, commitment to public ownership of the means of production in a symbolic break with the party's socialist past.

The final nail in the Conservatives' electoral coffin was hammered in six months ago, when Labor's economics spokesman Gordon Brown set out his tax and spending policies.

Brown was accused of voluntarily lowering an economic strategy that he promised to hold to the Conservatives' spending plans and



John Major

(Reuters)

pledged no increase in income tax rates. But he had effectively stopped the Conservatives from using tax as a weapon against Labor as they had done so successfully in 1992.

Conservative splits over Europe and a string of scandals had pushed Labor's poll lead to 36 points.

Major was convinced he could eat into that in the campaign, but no

Final results

LONDON (Reuters) - Following is a final breakdown of the number of parliamentary seats each party won:

Conservatives 165 (165 held, 178 lost)

Labour 419 (273 held, 146 gained)

Liberal Democrats 46 (18 held, 30 gained, 2 lost)

Others 29 (21 held, 8 gained, 4 lost)

Average swing to Labor from Conservatives - 10.2 percent

Majority for Labor - 179

Share of the vote -

Labour 45%

Conservatives 31%

Liberal Democrats 17%

sooner had he named election day than sleaze reappeared.

Former minister Tim Smith quit as a candidate in a row over cash payments he had received from the owner of London's up-market Harrods store Mohamed Al Fayed, before entering parliament.

Smith fell on his sword in an attempt to bury the issue, but another former minister involved in the row, Neil Hamilton, refused to stand down, protesting his innocence.

With the approval of Labor and the Liberal Democrats, who withdrew their candidates, former BBC war reporter Martin Bell stood against Hamilton as an anti-sleaze candidate, ensuring the issue was placed even more prominently in the public eye.

In desperation, Major took over the election campaign. He scrapped planned advertisements and delivered personal broadcasts instead, hoping his reputation for honesty and decency would count.

But his hands-on approach merely fueled confusion about the campaign's direction. Advertisements were cancelled, causing bad blood at Conservative headquarters and undermining morale even further.

On April 18, the Conservatives launched a poster showing Tony Blair as a ventriloquist's dummy sitting on the knee of German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The aim was to show Blair as the inexperienced negotiator to defend Britain's interests.

Major laughed it off as a sign of panic and sought to buy back the confidence of his voters by claiming the Conservatives would abolish the state pension.

It was the final blow. He promised to raise and protect Major's job, Blair's party made the message.

On April 22, the pro-European Conservative member of parliament Edmund Byrne said he would lose his seat in a landslide and blame the blame at Major's door.

The number of the subsequent had

EU welcomes Labor victory

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Britain's European partners yesterday welcomed the Labor Party's landslide general election victory and expressed hope a new government under Tony Blair would be an easier partner in European integration.

Further afield, President Clinton congratulated Labor Party leader Tony Blair on his party's victory while Asian states did the same. There was little impact in Hong Kong, due to revert to Chinese sovereignty in less than two months.

White House spokesman David Johnson said Clinton called Blair in the early hours of Friday to congratulate him on his victory.

Few tears were shed across the EU over John Major's thumping defeat, but the other 14 nations in the group were unsure whether Blair's arrival would relax Britain's prickly attitude to key issues of sovereignty.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, speaking in Brunei during an Asian tour, said the poll showed Britons did not like anti-European policies, adding anti-EU policies could not win votes anywhere.

German Social Democrats (SPD), out of office for almost as long as the British Labor Party, hailed Blair's win as the start of a trend they hope will return them to power in a federal parliamentary election next year after 16 years in opposition.

"In 73 weeks we'll do exactly the same. Congratulations Tony Blair!" a billboard outside SPD headquarters proclaimed.

But Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU), noting the SPD had not yet named its chal-

lenger to Kohl, promptly asked who was the "Tony Blair of the SPD."

German editorial writers were scathing about the defeated Conservatives, whose Euroskeptical campaign, with its anti-German overtones, offended sensitivities of their readers.

In France, which is caught in the throes of campaigning for its own two-stage parliamentary election on May 25 and June 1, President Jacques Chirac said in a message to Blair that he would be happy to meet him soon in the French capital. The invitation was informal and no dates were mentioned.

Socialist opposition leader Lionel Jospin sent Blair a brief congratulatory message saying he "rejoiced the British people had changed majority in order to change their future." The campaign slogan of France's Socialists in the country's current general election campaign is "Let's change the future."

French European Affairs Minister Michel Barnier said his country's opposition Socialists had yet to understand that their British counterparts had won the election because they had dropped "outmoded precepts" about state control of the economy.

In Amsterdam, a Dutch government press statement said Prime Minister Wim Kok had "congratulated Blair in a telegram and expressed the hope that the new British government will contribute to a positive result at the (EU's) Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) in Amsterdam in June."

In Brussels, EU diplomats said Labor

could have an immediate impact at an IGC preparatory meeting tomorrow expected to be the last before the Dutch EU presidency puts forward a draft treaty ahead of the Amsterdam summit.

The IGC, due to complete its revision of the Maastricht Treaty on European union by mid-June and streamline the bloc's institutions ahead of an ambitious eastward expansion, was anathema to the Conservatives, who feared federalism and muttered darkly about the threat to the nation-state.

EU Commission president Jacques Santer pointed out in a telegram of congratulations to Blair that Britain would take over the presidency of the EU in the first half of next year.

"Never more than now has the European Union needed strong British commitment with its unique combination of pragmatism and efficiency," his telegram said.

Spain's conservative government said it would continue to enjoy friendly relations with Britain following Labor's landslide victory, but that Gibraltar would remain a sticking point.

"We shall continue with those good relations, and naturally the question of Gibraltar, which is an obstacle in that excellent relationship, for Spain, will continue as it was," Foreign Minister Abel Matutes told Spanish national radio.

Gibraltar has been an irritant in relations between Britain and Spain for many years. Spain insists that Britain hand back the colony which it seized almost 300 years ago.

Scotland and Wales to get their own assemblies

LONDON (AP) - Under Britain's new Labor government, Scotland and Wales are to get their own assemblies - a move the defeated Conservatives warn is the first step toward shattering the United Kingdom.

For now, though, the Conservatives are shattered. They lost their remaining seats in Scotland and Wales, as well as their leadership position, in the election.

"It was like being hit by a nuclear warhead," said defeated Welsh Conservative Walter Saterday.

Scottish Labor lawmaker George Robertson said politicians had underestimated the sheer determination of the people of Scotland to make a change in the government

of the country." In Britain's last national election, in 1992, the Tories won 11 of 72 seats in Scotland and 6 of 38 in Wales.

The Labor landslide that swept Tony Blair into No. 10 Downing St gave the party over two-thirds of the seats in both Scotland and Wales - and a clear mandate to go ahead with the assemblies.

Scotland, which won 56 of the 72 seats, has promised to give a 24-member Scottish parliament sole authority over education, health and legal affairs.

In addition, the 5 million Scots will get to vote on whether the Scottish parliament gets tax-raising powers.

During the campaign, the Conservatives set out the idea of

a "Tartan Tax," which would be added to the taxes Scots already pay.

Even though they didn't win a seat, the Tories did get 500,000 votes, and defeated Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth said they won't give up.

Forsyth, one of seven Conservative Cabinet ministers to lose their seats, said the Scottish people "would come to know the price of Labor's failure to think through devolution plans properly." He also announced he was bowing out of politics.

The Scottish National Party, which advocates independence, took 22 percent of the vote in Scotland and doubled its delegation in the House of Commons to

six.

In Wales, where Labor won 34 of the 40 seats, party spokesman Ron Davies promised that devolution would be a key issue.

"Labor offered a very clear set of commitments and with this marvelous endorsement we have had, we'll be in a very strong position to deliver," Davies said.

Unlike Scotland, Wales doesn't have separate legal and school systems from England's and it will get a less powerful assembly.

Dafydd Wigley, president of Plaid Cymru, the Welsh nationalist party, said the Welsh expect Labor to deliver on devolution. The party called on Labor to issue a policy paper within a month outlining their plans for an assembly.

Record number of women elected to parliament

LONDON (Reuters) - A record number of women will take up seats in the "Moshers of Parliament" after the Labor Party made its best ever showing in Britain's general election.

As results trickled in, the number of female members of parliament (MPs) looked set to double from 62 to about 120, although Westminster will remain overwhelmingly male.

"I'm pleased that there will be a real mix of MPs, with more women and younger Members of Parliament," said Clive Ward, who at 24 became the youngest member of the current intake.

Twin sisters Angela and Maria Eagle were also swept to Westminster on the tidal wave of support for Labor, becoming both the first twins and the first sisters to enter parliament.

Nearly 400 women had run for parliament's 659 seats in Thursday's election and their one-in-four success rate means the magic 100 mark will be broken for

the first time.

"It will be important that a number of women are all entering at the same time. If there is a huge chunk of women all new together, it will be easier to back each other up," said analyst Mary-Ann Sicheonson of the Fawcett Society.

Labour, on course for a majority of close to 180 seats, had 101 of the 1997 intake, with the Conservatives, traditionally favoured by women voters, supplying 12. Others came from the Scottish National Party and the Liberal Democrats.

Before Thursday's election, women made up just 9.2 percent of the House of Commons and analysts said the scale of the new influx should finally make a difference to the way business is conducted at Westminster.

Currently, the corridors of power resemble a boys' school or a gentlemen's club. Women's voices are notoriously hard to find. There isn't a rifle range and 11 bars, but no creche.

NEW 1997 EDITIONS

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מקטנים האוכל

Major gets his priorities straight

LONDON (AP) - Cricket was the first thing on John Major's mind as he left 10 Downing Street for the last time Friday as prime minister.

"I'm in very good spirits and I'm enjoying myself. I always enjoy myself at the Oval," said Major, accompanied by his wife Norma, his son James and daughter Elizabeth.

Lakers advance in spite of 'Shaq Wackers'

PORTLAND (AP) - Maybe the Los Angeles Lakers can take "Shaq Wackers" with them to Utah.

and Atlanta got 17 points from its much-maligned reserves to force another game.

The Portland Trail Blazers' promotion department handed out 10,000 of the annoying noise-making fans for Friday night's crucial playoff game, figuring the sound would bother the Lakers, especially at the free-throw line.

Starter Mookie Blaylock, Dikembe Mutombo and Christian Laettner all had double-doubles for the Hawks.

Whoever decided to hand out the noise-making fans, Shaquille O'Neal said, "I concentrated more on my free throws, and it was great to make them in the clutch."

Seattle battled back, drawing even on Detlev Schrempf's 3-pointer and going ahead for good 112-110 when he hit two free throws with 2:54 to go.

Stich to retire in fall

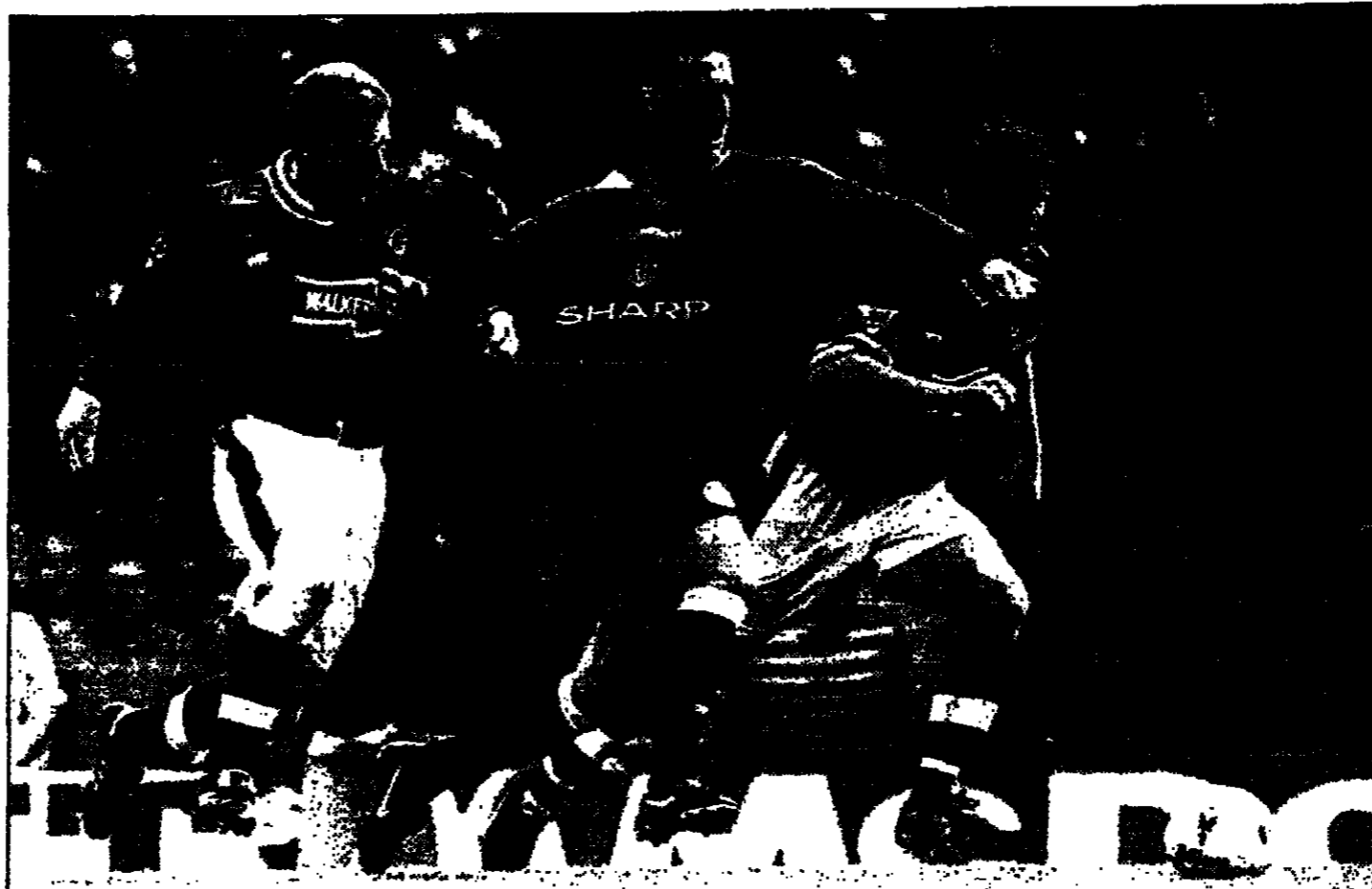
MILBERG (AP) - Former Wimbledon champion Michael Stich said Friday he will retire at the end of the season because of a worm-out injury.

Stich helped Germany win the Davis Cup. He has won 14 Tour singles titles and nine in doubles.

Will Carling chooses the perfect moment to retire

LONDON (Reuters) - With a sense of timing which rarely deserted him either on or off the field, former England captain Will Carling has chosen the perfect moment to retire from international rugby.

Carling was surrounded by a group of 100-minded players and had in mind a good man who was also a good player, being patronized by the rest of the rugby world.



STRIDE-FOR-STRIDE - Leicester City's Neil Lennon battles Manchester United's Eric Cantona for the ball at Filbert Street yesterday. The game ended in a 2-2 draw.

Solskjaer rescues Utd in 2-2 draw

LONDON (AP) - Two goals by Norwegian striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer rescued Manchester United from a 2-0 down yesterday.

beat a defender before crossing from the left and the Norwegian striker was unmarked as he fired the ball home.

Seven minutes into the second half it was 2-2 when Cole got through again.

Brighton deducted 2 pts due to field invasion.

Robbie Elliott named Newcastle's winner at Highbury and Kenny Dalglish's fourth-place team have the same number of games left as the leader with nine points to make up from the three games.

Table with columns: GP, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists Premier League teams and their statistics.

Table with columns: GP, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists Division One teams and their statistics.

Table with columns: GP, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists Division Two teams and their statistics.

Table with columns: GP, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists Scottish Premier League teams and their statistics.

UEFA favors 'doubleheaders' for nat'l teams

MOSCOW (AP) - UEFA's president, Lennart Johansson, has announced that the organization will favor 'doubleheaders' for national teams.

UEFA wants to force domestic leagues to suspend their program for certain weekends a year so that 10 national team games can be fitted in.

Frustrated Hill warns Arrows he's keeping his options open

LONDON (AP) - Rejoicing Formula One champion Damon Hill, angry after crashing out of last weekend's San Marino Grand Prix, has warned his Arrows team that he won't stand for becoming an also-ran in the sport.

"It's important for me to know what the future is next year for the team. The 36-year-old Hill wants to keep his options open if a seat in a top car comes open next season.

Handwritten text in a box: "كتاب الاصل"

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

LAST CHANGE

AMEX table with columns for stock name and last change.

NASDAQ

NASDAQ table with columns for stock name and last change.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

LAST CHANGE

NEW YORK

Large table of international shares with columns for stock name and last change.

LAST CHANGE

Table of stock prices and changes.

LAST CHANGE

Table of stock prices and changes.

LAST CHANGE

Table of stock prices and changes.

LAST CHANGE

Table of stock prices and changes.

LAST CHANGE

Table of stock prices and changes.

LAST CHANGE

Table of stock prices and changes.

WALL STREET REPORT

Budget plan boosts bonds

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Dow Jones industrial average soared nearly 95 points Friday...

For the week, it was up a record 332.33 points, which beat the old record of 312 points set in the week ending April 18.

Cloudbusting the issue for analysts, however, was a stunning decline in the nation's unemployment rate to 4.9 percent...

Key Representative Rates

Table showing key representative rates for US Dollar and Sterling.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table showing New York market indexes like DJ Industrials, DJ Transport, etc.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Table showing other market indexes like FTSE 100, Nikkei, etc.

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

Table showing dollar crossrates for various currencies.

US COMMODITIES

Table showing US commodity prices.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table showing London commodity prices.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table showing spot market metal prices.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table showing New York metal futures prices.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table showing London metal fix prices.

DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA

Advertisement for data communications services.

Foreign financial data courtesy of

Advertisement for foreign financial data.

Tel Aviv shares data supplied by Pacific

Advertisement for Tel Aviv shares data.

WALL STREET WEEK

Stocks moving on momentum

NEW YORK (AP) - There were encouraging tidbits to be mined from the past week's pile of economic data...

deal in Washington late Friday to balance the federal budget by 2002, which over time could bleed the economy with lower borrowing costs.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

So far, so good for UK market under Labor

LONDON (Reuters) - Leading UK shares scaled new peaks, inspired by bullish Wall Street and shuffling off uncertainties created by the Labor Party's historic sweep to power...

ZURICH - Swiss shares posted their third record session in a row and for the first time ended above the important 4,900 point level in the blue-chip Swiss Market Index (SMI)...

FRANKFURT - German shares edge up to a higher close after a rangebound bourse session, dulled by the fact that many market participants are away after the May Day holiday...

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks surged to close at a new high for 1997, lifted by institutional investors, mostly pension funds, seeking blue-chip issues.

Advertisement for securities with text 'Want to keep in close touch with your securities till 11 PM?' and an illustration of a person.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Table showing Israeli money market rates for various currencies and terms.

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates (2.5.97)

Table showing shekel foreign exchange rates for various currencies.

CURRENCY REPORT

Low unemployment lifts dollar

NEW YORK (AP) - The dollar rallied Friday, overcoming early weakness after a Swiss central banker said he wasn't concerned about the currency's strength and the Labor Department reported the lowest US jobless rate in 24 years.

Gehrig told reporters at an appearance in Switzerland that "I'm not worried about the high dollar at all." He also said Switzerland's own weak economy made it unlikely that interest rates there will rise anytime soon.

said Bob Houck, vice president for foreign exchange at Norwest Bank Corp. in Minneapolis. "Any time you see a comment for a stronger dollar, that's just kind of a green light to buy it." The pound initially fell then rebounded in the aftermath of the Labor Party's landslide victory over the incumbent Conservatives in Britain.

PAC MED INVESTMENTS logo and text.

CRITIC'S CHOICE



The story of a Jewish school built on the ruins of the Lodz Ghetto in 1948 is portrayed in 'Ecole 27,' on the Family Channel at 9:20 p.m.

In commemoration of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, there will be no entertainment events listed.

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

Tonight, the eve of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, all local Israeli television and cable channels are dedicating their entire programming to shows on the subject.

A second live follow-up broadcast of Lost Identity will be screened tonight at 9 on Channel 1, with the new information found on Jewish children who lost their identity during the World War II in Poland.

Louis Malle's masterpiece, Au Revoir Les Enfants, about the friendship between a Christian boy and a Jewish boy hiding in a Catholic school in Nazi-occupied France will be shown tonight at 10:20.



'To Speak the Unspeakable,' about the life of Elie Wiesel, appears on the Family Channel at 6:35 p.m.

TV

CHANNEL 1

- 6:30 News Flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

- 8:00 Herzl and Zionism
8:30 Destinos
8:00 Geography
9:20 Nature

CHANNEL 1

- 15:00 Motomica from Mars
15:55 Body - cartoon
16:00 Paradise

JORDAN TV

- 14:00 Holy Koran
14:05 Johnny Quest
14:30 Problem Child
15:00 French program

MIDDLE EAST TV

- 10:30 Changed Lives
11:30 Hour of Power
12:30 Central Message

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)

- 16:15 Weekly Column
18:15 Good News
19:00 News in Arabic

ETV 2 (23)

- 15:30 All Together Now
16:00 The Heart of Things
16:30 Possible World

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 8 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs and channels.

CHANNEL 8

- 6:00 Open University - John Cage; Everybody's Business; Painters to the People

CHANNEL 5

- No broadcasts

EUROSPORT

- 9:30 Ice Hockey: World Championships, Finland (pt)

CHANNEL 5

- No broadcasts

CHANNEL 5

- No broadcasts

CHANNEL 5

- No broadcasts



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 5 A flier making childish complaint (6); 8 Contest that is boring people (4,4); 9 Dancer taking a step one way (7); 10 Several dined soundly (5); 11 Quiet technicians, but they're champions (9); 13 Upset arising from greed and corruption (8); 14 A supporter or two at the riverside (6); 17 Decline to go back in a cab, begrudging the cost (3); 19 View as the bishop's responsibility (3); 20 One needs a jacket for a dance (6); 23 Having arrived, turn back a worker—so high-handed (8)

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers and solutions.

QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1 Licenses (5); 4 Culinary herb (5); 10 Less expensive (7); 11 Lariat (5); 12 Jobs (5); 13 Raise (7); 15 Inactive (4); 17 Strike (5); 19 Priory (5); 22 Sicilian volcano (4); 27 Begin (5); 29 Correct (6); 30 Cock (7); 31 Embellish (5); 32 Irate (5)

MOVIES

- JERUSALEM CINEMATHEQUE Ladies Tailor - Barney Portnoy 8:30
TEL AVIV DIZENGOFF = 5101370 Kolya-Tad 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5 - Box of Moonlight 11 a.m., 3 - Mulholland Falls 1, 5 RAV-

THE JERUSALEM POST DIRECT LINES TO DEPARTMENTS. Includes advertising, news, and editorial contact info.

MOVIES

Advertisement for Jerusalem Post Summer Camp sessions, May 30, 1997. Includes contact info and a cartoon illustration.

NEWS

in brief

Israel, Czech Republic jointly issue stamps

Two stamps depicting Jewish sites in Prague have been issued by Israel and the Czech Republic. The ceremony marking the event, attended by Communications Minister Limor Livnat, Czech Ambassador Jiri Schneider, Postal Authority chairman Amos Mar-Haim and authority director-general Moshe Tery, was held at the Eretz Yisrael Museum in Tel Aviv on Thursday. One stamp shows the interior of the Altneuschul synagogue, built in 1270, while the other shows the tombstone of Rabbi Judah Loew, the Maharal of Prague. The Israeli stamps sell for NIS 1.70; the Czech stamp of the Maharal's tomb is denominated at 10 crowns and the Altneuschul stamp at 8 crowns.

Judy Siegel

'30% of Israelis have unsuitable gas masks'

Thirty percent of residents do not have effective gas masks, Adi Eldar, chairman of the Union of Local Authorities, said on Friday. He said part of the problem is that the local stations replacing out-of-date gas masks are not operating effectively.

Eldar said that in light of reports that Syria is continuing to equip itself with non-conventional weapons, the government must make home front defense a higher priority.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Soldier killed by stray bullet

A soldier, 20, from Kibbutz Sha'ar Ha'amakim, was killed early Friday morning on the kibbutz by a stray bullet fired by his friend, Ro'i Regev, 19, who was handling the soldier's gun. Regev, who was seriously wounded in Lebanon by a roadside bomb in late January, was remanded for seven days by Haifa Magistrate's Court on Friday.

The soldier had come to visit Regev, his neighbor on the kibbutz, while on leave from the army. While handling the M-16, Regev accidentally shot his friend in the neck. He was declared dead at the scene by Magen David Adom personnel.

Itim

Abu Marzook gives up US residency permit

Hamas leader Moussa Abu Marzook has given up his US residency, setting the stage for his deportation to Jordan, a senior Hamas official said yesterday.

"Negotiations between Abu Marzook's lawyers and US officials have ended and we expect him to arrive in Jordan anytime," said Mohammed Nazzal, a Hamas representative to Jordan.

Earlier, Israel dropped its request for his extradition as a suspect in 10 terrorist attacks from 1990 to 1994 that killed 47 people.

AP

Winning cards

The winning cards in Friday's Mifal Hapais daily Chance drawing were the king of spades, the eight of hearts, the nine of diamonds, and the eight of clubs.

US: No evidence Arafat knew of World Trade Center bombing

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — The US Justice Department has dismissed a Jerusalem Post report alleging Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat knew in advance of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, citing a lack of evidence to back up the claim.

In a letter sent to Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter last week, Assistant Attorney-General Andrew Fois said the department "is unaware of any information that Yasser Arafat either had prior knowledge of the bombing of the World Trade Center or was in any way involved in the conspiracy to bomb the building."

The Justice Department also asked Israeli officials about Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled's claims of Israel's knowledge of Arafat's involvement, and "they [the Israelis] deny the accuracy of the statements attributed" to Peled, Fois wrote.

Specter wrote to Attorney-General Janet Reno last month

asking her to investigate the claims contained in the March 26 Jerusalem Post lead story. In the last Congress, Specter served as chairman of the Senate select committee on intelligence.

A senior American official said Friday that the US never put any credence in the news report and has seen no intelligence indicating Arafat was in any way involved in the plot.

The Post report had quoted Peled as saying Arafat "was part of the discussions on [the World Trade Center bombing] operation," and calling on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu "to give the information to the Americans, so they'll know who they're dealing with."

Peled confirmed information relayed by intelligence sources that, several days before the February 26, 1993 bombing, Arafat met with Sudanese and Islamic terrorist leaders who discussed the plot.

Peled, who is abroad, could not be reached for comment last night.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu gestures for Turkish Defense Minister Turhan Tayan to take a seat for their meeting Friday. (Reuters)

Report: Israel gave Turkey data on the MiG-29

News agencies

Israel has shared with Turkey secret information about MiG-29 warplanes, the type used by Syria's air force, a Turkish newspaper said yesterday.

Turkey's Defense Minister Turhan Tayan denied the report.

"There is no such thing," Tayan told a news conference a day after returning from Israel. "We even did not mention a MiG." Israel Aircraft Industries is upgrading 54 Turkish F-4 Phantoms.

Turkish Deputy Chief of General Staff Gen. Cevik Bir is to arrive here today for further talks on cooperation in the military field, Tayan said.

According to the daily Hurriyet, the data will be incorporated into the planes' electronic war-

fare systems to allow them to detect the MiG-29s more easily.

Hurriyet said Israeli experts received the information on the Russian-made MiG-29s from a Western country, reportedly Germany.

Turkey and Israel have bolstered defense ties with a series of cooperation agreements, including a joint military training agreement heavily criticized by Iran and Arab countries.

The \$632.5 million F-4 upgrading project began two months ago.

Tayan said Israel may also bid for a modernizing project for 48 Turkish F-5 warplanes.

Tayan held talks with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem on Friday.

"Our meeting represents the tightening cooperation between Israel and Turkey in all realms and foremost in the security realm," Netanyahu was quoted by his office as saying.

Tayan said he hopes Turkey's good relations with Israel will contribute to peace in the Middle East.

Tayan arrived here last Wednesday on a visit seen as a further blow to the prestige of Turkey's Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, who won elections 16 months ago partly on a promise to cut military ties with Israel.

"There is room for additional cooperation primarily in the economic and security realm, such as the fight against terrorism and the preservation of stability in the region," Netanyahu was quoted as saying at the start of his talks with Tayan.

Turkey and Israel have signed defense cooperation pacts, which drew an angry response from Iran and many Arab countries. IAF planes have flown training flights in Turkey under the accords.

Israeli, US researchers challenge AIDS infection theory

By JUDY SIEGEL

An Israeli-American research team has challenged an influential US AIDS researcher and proposed a provocative new scenario of T-cell activity in HIV infection.

The analysis, by Prof. Zvi Grossman — a senior lecturer in physiology and pharmacology at Tel Aviv University and an adjunct professor of biostatistics at the University of Pittsburgh — and Dr. Ronald Herberman of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, was published in the May 1 issue of Nature Medicine.

The new analysis, which could suggest new methods of treatment of AIDS, stresses several novel aspects of HIV infection, including a distinct adaptive response to the virus of the body's immune system, which makes many CD4 T lymphocytes, the most vulnerable target, vari-

ably resistant to HIV infection. Grossman and Herberman also suggest that cell types other than CD4 cells play a major role in sustaining the infection, not only as additional HIV reservoirs but as part of the primary mechanism of HIV transmission among cells.

The two scientists challenge the "falling homeostasis" model proposed by Dr. David Ho, who was Time magazine's "Man of the Year" for 1996. Ho's theory was developed in 1995, when antiviral drugs were effectively used to block continued HIV infection of cells in patients; Ho explained the subsequent rise of CD4 cells as existing before the treatment and that after treatment, it exceeded cell loss. Based on this interpretation, scientists estimated a rapid turnover rate of CD4 cells before treatment.

But Grossman and Herberman claim the reasoning behind "falling homeostasis" is unsound, in that the turnover of CD4 cells need not be considered unusual. This reflects an adaptive response, they wrote, rather than simply being the result of cell depletion.

Regional radio pans IBA competition

By HELEN KAYE

Defending its turf, the Second Television and Radio Authority (STRA) has complained to the Prime Minister's Office, requesting the immediate closure of Kol Hanegev (106.3FM), which it terms a pirate regional radio station. The station operates with help from the Israel Broadcasting Authority.

STRA general manager Nahman Shai said that the station represents "a severe blow to the commercial regional radio network, which the law charged us to establish."

Shai further said that Kol Hanegev, which is operated out of the Sha'ar Hanegev regional school and college, will cut into the income and audience share of the STRA's Radio Darom, which serves the northern Negev.

"It is really idiotic to suggest that we are threatening anybody in any way," said Sha'ar Hanegev Regional Council head Shai Hermesh, "and if it arouses Nahman Shai's jealousy, so be it." The council funds the station, which is part of the college's communications degree program. "but we also have classes for fourth and fifth graders, all the way up to

12th grade," said Hermesh. The station's transmitters and frequency come from the IBA. It broadcasts actively only during school hours; during other times, the frequency is used by Israel Radio's Reshet Bet.

It is purely an educational tool, Hermesh insisted. It has no advertising "and its quarter-kilowatt transmitter gives it a 20-30 kilometer radius. Some threat!"

Kol Hanegev is one of four such stations approved three years ago by former communications minister Shulamit Aloni "who bought our idea of educational radio on the periphery," Hermesh said.

But Radio Darom general manager Danny Yosub said that "the IBA has disguised the station as an educational tool." Since it opened in January 1996, Radio Darom has garnered 18% of the listening audience and its advertising slots — 216 minutes per 24 hours — are full.

This is not the first time that STRA has clashed with the IBA. It contends that the IBA-operated commercial stations Kol Haderch in the Dan region and Hagal Habatnah in the North contravene the spirit, if not the letter, of the law.

WEATHER section with forecasts for Haifa (14-19), Tel Aviv (14-20), Jerusalem (9-16), Beer Sheva (12-21), and Eilat (22-30). Includes a small table for 'AROUND THE WORLD' with weather data for various cities.

Table titled 'AROUND THE WORLD' showing weather forecasts for cities like Amsterdam, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Chicago, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Geneva, Helsinki, Hong Kong, Istanbul, London, Los Angeles, Madrid, Moscow, New York, Paris, Rome, Seoul, Stockholm, Sydney, Taipei, Toronto, Warsaw, and Zurich. Columns include Low, High, and other weather indicators.

Sandstorms in Egypt kill 22

News agencies

CAIRO — At least 22 people, including a three-year-old child, died when sandstorms hit Egypt over the weekend.

On Friday, the strongest sandstorm in 30 years hit the country, and 18 people died in accidents, ranging from fallen trees to collapsed walls. Another sandstorm blew in from the Libyan desert yesterday, blinding drivers and killing at least four people in southern Egypt.

Both storms packed winds of over 100 kilometers per hour.

According to an Interior Ministry statement, 12 provinces were affected by Friday's storm, which sparked fires by downing electricity cables and ripped street billboards off their posts. A farmer was crushed by a fallen mulberry tree in his fields.

"I thought it was the Day of Judgment," an old man told the Egyptian newspaper Akhbar al-Yom.

The storm disrupted air traffic at Cairo International Airport and plunged Cairo into darkness for about an hour.

In yesterday's storm, the winds blew sand through Sobag, a provincial town 390 kilometers south of Cairo.

A police officer was killed when his car overturned. Elsewhere in the city, two cars collided on a highway, killing three people and injuring two, police said.

Fourteen people were injured in Sobag by falling trees, electricity pylons and other heavy objects, police said.

The winds forced flights to divert from the airport in Luxor, one of Egypt's top tourist destinations, about 115 kilometers south of Sobag.

Advertisement for 'ONE - on - ONE!' featuring Tony Little, a personal trainer. It lists three video cassette options: Target-Fitness (60 minutes), Target-Thighs (35 minutes), and Target-Stomach (35 minutes). Includes contact information for The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000.

Advertisement for 'GET "IN" SIDE TEL AVIV' book department. It describes a comprehensive guide to Tel Aviv, including neighborhood directories, maps, and local information. Price is NIS 45. Includes an order form with fields for name, address, city, and phone number.